

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /094 W  
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P R 120600Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7385  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS LUSAKA 0081

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PDEV SOPN RH  
SUBJ: RHODESIA: NKOMO ON TALKS WITH THE BRITISH

REF: LUSAKA 0065 (NOTAL)

1. REFTTEL REPORTED NKOMO'S PRESS CONFERENCE OF DECEMBER  
10. HE BEGAN HIS PRESENTATION BY READING FROM A PREPARED  
PRESS STATEMENT, SOME PASSAGES OF WHICH ARE OF SUFFICIENT  
INTEREST TO WARRANT SPECIAL ATTENTION. THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS.  
(2. NKOMO JUSTIFIED THE PF'S FAILURE TO GO TO MALTA FOLLOW-  
ING LORD CARVER'S FIRST VISIT TO AFRICA ON THE GROUNDS THAT  
THEY WERE INFORMED BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT THAT "THE  
CONFERENCE HAD BEEN CANCELLED BECAUSE IAN SMITH WAS UNABLE  
TO ATTEND OR TO SEND A DELEGATION." FURTHER, "THE BRITISH  
HAD CHANGED THE NATURE OF THE CONFERENCE TO THAT OF HEARING  
OUR VIEWS ON THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT ARRANGEMENT" RATHER THAN  
TO DISCUSS SUBSTANTIVELY THESE ARRANGEMENTS.

3. BRITISH, SAID NKOMO, FAVORED THE INTERNAL SOLUTION ALL  
ALONG. "AFTER LORD CARVER'S MEETING WITH THE REGIME, IAN  
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SMITH ANNOUNCED HIS PLANS TO REACH AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT  
AND DR. OWEN RESPONDED THAT THIS WAS A STEP IN THE RIGHT  
DIRECTION." OWEN'S REACTION TO RHODESIAN ATTACKS ON CAMPS  
IN MOZAMBIQUE ALSO SHOW WHERE BRITISH SYMPATHIES LIE. "HE,  
DR. OWEN, SAID THAT THE ATTACKS SHOWED THAT THE RHODESIAN  
COLONIAL ARMY WAS NOT ON ITS BACK; THAT THE INCIDENT WOULD  
SERVE AS A LESSON TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. FROM THESE TWO

APPROACHES OF THE BRITISH, IT IS ALSO PERFECTLY CLEAR THAT SMITH'S REFUSAL TO ATTEND THE MALTA CONFERENCE, HIS PLANS TO GO AHEAD WITH THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AND HIS ATTACKS ON THE CAMPS IN MOZAMBIQUE WERE KNOWN AND SUPPORTED BY THE BRITISH."

4. ON THE LATEST BRITISH INVITATION TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, NKOMO SAID, "WHEN I WAS IN HAVANA DR. OWEN WROTE A LETTER TO ME THROUGH HIS AMBASSADOR THERE, REQUESTING TO MEET THE PATRIOTIC FRONT ON OR AFTER THE 18 JANUARY 1978. ON DECEMBER 31, 1977, WHEN I PASSED THROUGH LONDON THE FOREIGN OFFICE 'PHONED ME TO SAY THAT LORD CARVER WOULD SHORTLY BE VISITING MAPUTO AND THEY WANTED THE PF TO KNOW ABOUT THIS AS THEY WERE GOING TO ANNOUNCE IT SOON. MY REPLY TO THEM WAS THAT LORD CARVER'S TRAVELS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ME OR THE PF. BUT THE PF IS VERY STARTLED TO LEARN THAT AFTER LORD CARVER'S ARRIVAL AT MAPUTO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS STATED THAT HIS VISIT THERE WAS AT THE REQUEST OF THE PF. THIS IS NONSENSE. THE PATRIOTIC FRONT DID NOT REQUEST LORD CARVER TO GO TO MAPUTO AND BRITAIN KNOWS THAT. BUT IT WAS PART OF THEIR PLAN TO SHOW THAT THE PF WAS NOW WORRIED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE SUCCESS OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT TALKS. WE HAVE MADE OUR POSITION VERY CLEAR THAT WHATEVER AGREEMENT IS REACHED BETWEEN SMITH AND HIS PUPPETS THE LIBERATION WAR GOES ON."

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